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Walter R. Smith

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EXAMINER

OUELLETTE, JONATHAN P

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 22, 40, and 43 have been cancelled and Claims 44-46 have been added; therefore, Claims 1-21, 23-39, 41, 42, and 44-46 remain pending in application 10/692,256.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 1-21, 23-39, 41, 42, and 44-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hardy et al. (US 2005/0044152 A1).**
4. As per **independent Claims 1 and 20**, Hardy discloses in a computing system (computer program product) that is in communication with a plurality of applications that are configured to utilize contact information to initiate communication with a contact (Abstract), a method for providing a contact management system for managing contacts and their corresponding contact information for use by the plurality of applications, the method comprising: creating a plurality of contacts having contact information that can be utilized by the plurality of communication applications (Fig.3, Para 0004-0008), such that the plurality

of applications can utilize the contact information to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts (abstract); storing the contacts in a centralized contact store that is accessible to each of the plurality of communication applications (Fig.5, Para 0024); providing a contact interface having a plurality of regions initially and simultaneously displayed when the contact interface is launched, the contact interface including a display window displaying, to a user and in a contacts region, contact information corresponding to one or more of the plurality of contacts, the same display window in which contact information is displayed further being configured to display, in a links region simultaneously and initially displayed with, and separate from, the contacts region, one or more user-selectable links configured to launch one of the plurality of communication applications to initiate network communication with a contact, the one or more user-selectable links of the separate links region including a link for only each type of communication applications installed and the amount of contact information available from the centralized contact store (Fig.5, Para 0024, Para 0034); launching the at least one of the plurality of communication applications in response to user selection of one of the user-selectable links in the display window that also displays the contact information (Para 0024, Para 0034); providing the launched communication applications access to the contact and corresponding contact information through the contact interface or one or more other interfaces; and enabling the launched communication applications to retrieve the contact information from the contact store and utilize the contact information to initiate network communication with the contact (Fig.1, Para 0024, Para 0034).

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5. As per Claims 2 and 21, Hardy discloses wherein the one or more other interfaces prevent the at least one of the communication applications from having direct access to the contacts and corresponding contact information in the contact store.
6. As per Claims 3 and 22, Hardy discloses wherein the one or more other interfaces further provide a security mechanism for preventing the at least one of the communication applications from accessing contacts and corresponding contact information that a corresponding user of the computing system has not authorized.
7. As per Claim 4, Hardy discloses wherein the corresponding user is a logged on user of the computing system.
8. As per Claims 5 and 23, Hardy discloses wherein enabling the at least one of the communication applications to utilize the contact includes enabling the at least one of the communication applications to update the contact information of the contact within the contact store.
9. As per Claim 6, Hardy discloses wherein the contact information is updated by syncing the contact information in the contact store with contact information provided by the at least one of the communication applications.
10. As per Claims 7 and 24, Hardy discloses wherein enabling the at least one of the communication applications to utilize the contact includes updating contact information stored by the at least one of the communication applications in an application store with the corresponding contact information from the contact store.

11. As per Claims 8 and 25, Hardy discloses wherein enabling the at least one of the communication applications to utilize the contact includes enabling the contact to be sent to another store of another computing system.
12. As per Claims 9 and 26, Hardy discloses wherein enabling the at least one of a plurality of communication applications to utilize the contact includes enabling the at least one of the heterogeneous communication application to modify the contact.
13. As per Claim 10, Hardy discloses wherein modifying the contact includes modifying an attribute associated with the contact.
14. As per Claims 11 and 27, Hardy discloses wherein enabling the at least one of the communication applications to utilize the contact includes enabling the at least one of the communication applications to create an association between the contact and at least one other contact.
15. As per Claims 12 and 28, Hardy discloses wherein enabling the at least one of the communication applications to utilize the contact includes enabling the at least one of the communication applications to initiate a communication by using the contact information associated with the contact.
16. As per Claim 13, Hardy discloses wherein the communication includes at least one of an e-mail, a telephony session, an RTC session, an instant message, a facsimile, a telephone message, or a pager notification.
17. As per Claims 14 and 29, Hardy discloses wherein creating the contact includes merging contact information corresponding to a single person and that is obtained from a plurality of sources into a single contact.

18. As per Claims 15 and 30, Hardy discloses wherein the contact comprises a data structure having a plurality of fields that contain different contact information, and wherein the one or more communication applications are configured to utilize contact information from different fields of the contact data structure.
19. As per Claims 16 and 31, Hardy discloses wherein the at least one of the communication applications is hosted by the computing system.
20. As per Claims 17 and 32, Hardy discloses wherein creating the contact includes enabling the user to set constraints that control how the contact can at least one of be accessed and utilized by communication applications.
21. As per Claims 18 and 33, Hardy discloses wherein the one or more other interfaces includes an interface for enabling a user to select portions of the contact information that will be made accessible to the at least one of the communication applications.
22. As per Claim 19, Hardy discloses wherein the one or more interfaces include an interface for enabling a user to select the contact from a plurality of available contacts.
23. As per Claim 41, Hardy discloses filtering the plurality of contacts in the contact store to display a subset of contacts, wherein said plurality of contacts are filtered according to one or more criteria selected from a group consisting of: *name, phone number, address, keyword, online status, application capabilities, communication device capabilities, communication frequency, last selected contact, geographic location, emotional status, communication device status, and contact persona.*
24. As per Claim 42, Hardy discloses wherein the display window lists a plurality of actions which can be taken to establish network communication with the one or more contacts, the

plurality of actions being filtered based on the available contact information such that the listed actions include only actions for which sufficient contact information is already available to the contact interface (Para 0024, Para 0034).

25. As per new Claim 44, Hardy discloses wherein the contact region is configured to display address information, including at least one of a physical address, an email address, FTP information, or an instant messenger identification, when available for the one or more of the plurality of contacts (Fig.5).
26. As per new Claim 45, Hardy discloses wherein the contact region is configured to display address information, including at least one of a home telephone number, a work telephone number, a mobile telephone number, or a pager number, when available for the one or more of the plurality of contacts (Fig.5).
27. As per **independent Claims 34, 37, and 46**, Hardy discloses in a computing system (computer program product) that includes a contact store storing at least one contact, the contact comprising contact information that can be utilized differently by heterogeneous applications that are in communication with the computing system (Fig.1, Fig.5, Para 0018-20), the heterogeneous communication applications having application contact directories that are maintained independently of the contact store and that defines the at least one contact (Fig.1), a method for providing a contact management system for managing contacts and their corresponding contact information for use by the heterogeneous communication applications (abstract), the method comprising: creating one or more contacts having contact information that can be utilized differently by at least two heterogeneous communication applications, wherein a plurality of the heterogeneous application can utilize the contact

information to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts (Fig.5, Para 0024, Para 0034); storing the contacts in a centralized contact store that is accessible to each of the at least two heterogeneous communication applications (Fig.5, Para 0018-20); modifying contact information for at least one of the contacts in the contact store (updating/entering contact information); upon modifying the contact information, automatically updating corresponding contact information in at least one application-specific contact directory of at least one of the heterogeneous communication applications to correspond with the modified contact information in the contact store, and such that the at least one application is able to access the updated contact information from a corresponding application-specific contact directory and without having to request the updated contact information from the contact store (Figs.1-5, Para 0021-0025); providing a contact interface for displaying contact information to a user, the contact interface having a plurality of regions which are initially and simultaneously displayed when the contact interface is launched, the contact interface including a display window configured to display, to a user and in a contacts region, contact information corresponding to one or more contacts, and the same display window being further configured to display, in a links region simultaneously and initially displayed with, and separate from the contacts region, one or more user-selectable links for launching at least one of the plurality of heterogeneous communication applications in response to user selection of a corresponding user-selected link displayed in the display window with the contact information, the one or more user-selectable links of the separate links region including a link for only each type of communication method directly available to the computing system in view of the communication applications installed and

the amount of contact information available from the centralized contact store (Fig.5, Para 0024, Para 0034); and enabling the plurality of heterogeneous communication application which can utilize the contact information to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts to retrieve the updated contact information from a corresponding communication application contact directory without having to request the updated contact information from (Figs.1-5) the contact store in response to user selection and to utilize the updated contact information to initiate network communication with a contact using an communication application launched from the contact interface (Figs.1-5, Para 0024, Para 0034).

28. As per Claim 35 and 38, Hardy discloses wherein modifying the contact information includes modifying content of the contact information.
29. As per Claims 36 and 39, Hardy discloses wherein modifying the contact information is performed by a local application hosted by the computing system.

Response to Arguments

30. Applicant's arguments filed 4/28/2008, with respect to Claims **1-21, 23-39, 41, 42, and 44-46** have been considered but are not persuasive the rejection will remain as FINAL based on the cited prior art.
31. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will

expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

32. The Applicant has made the argument that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest a contact interface in which a contact region that includes, when available, telephone and address information is displayed simultaneously and separately from, upon the initial loading of the display window, a task region that includes user selectable links for launching communication applications.
33. However, Hardy discloses providing a contact interface with separate link (middle section - Links) and contact information (top section – Address: John Smith) regions displayed simultaneously and separately, upon the initial loading of the display window (Fig.5).
34. The Applicant has made the argument that the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest wherein extensible controls are launched within an application and/or in which an extensible control acts as a security mechanism to limit the contacts and contact information available to an application.
35. However, Hardy discloses the specific control of saved contact information by the aggregated data viewer (Para 0025-Para 0028).

Conclusion

36. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Ouellette whose telephone number is (571) 272-6807. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8am - 5:00pm.

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37. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (571) 273-8300 for all official communications.
38. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Office of Initial Patent Examination whose telephone number is (703) 308-1202.

July 24, 2008

/Jonathan Ouellette/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3629